

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



*First*  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
of Cumberland, MD

*Empowered to love, serve, care, and give*

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
APRIL 26, 2026 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

O REST IN THE LORD ("ELIJAH")  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

MY SHEPHERD WILL SUPPLY MY NEED  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"RESIGNATION"

My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name.  
In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream.  
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways;  
And leads me for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Let us speak of God's faithfulness  
Come let us proclaim God's salvation  
Here is the glad news of God's deliverance  
God's love is steadfast and God is faithful!  
Let us praise God today!  
Come, let us praise God forever!

Let us pray -

Creator God, you called the universe into existence. Like a mother, you shaped us from the clay of the earth, and your breath gave us life. We praise you for your sustaining love and grace. Fix our thoughts and focus our hearts on you, that we might honor you by caring for all of creation. Amen.

\* HYMN #318

IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST

"ST. PETER"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of welcome, from generation to generation you have heard your children humbly seeking forgiveness, and you have embraced us all. Forgive us when frustration keeps us from following you and when we fail to seek forgiveness from our coworkers, neighbors, and enemies. Hear the concerns of our hearts, examine our motives, and forgive our faults. Help us to welcome all persons as you have welcomed us, through your Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who died and rose again that we might learn your love. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

RESPONSE #231

CHRIST HAS RISEN WHILE EARTH SLUMBERS (Verse 3)

"SUO GAN"

Christ has risen and for ever lives to challenge and to change  
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.  
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:  
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR JOSH JAMES LAVIN

### PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

JOHN FETCHERO, JOSH LAVIN AND MELANIE VOGEL

### QUESTIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? **I do.**

Do you trust Him? **I do.**

Do you intend to be His disciple, to obey His word and to show His love? **I do.**

Will you be a faithful member of Christ's church and this congregation, giving of yourself in every way, and will you seek the fellowship of the church wherever you may be? **I will, with God's help.**

### MEMBERSHIP PRAYER

### WELCOME AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

### PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

*Please stand and greet those in the pews near you. Send a wave to the camera for those joining online.*

*We recognize how important we are to each other; we belong to each other and are stronger together.*

Peace be with you- Latin language

Pax tecum (pax TAY coom)

Pax vobiscum (pax voh BEE scoom)

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 25:6-9

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

### ANTHEM

RISE UP, MY LOVE, MY FAIR ONE

HEALY WILLAN (1880-1968)

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away;  
For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;  
The flowers appear upon the earth;  
The time of the singing of birds is come;  
Arise my love, my fair one and come away;  
Come away. (from Song of Solomon)

### SECOND READING

MATTHEW 28:16-20

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

### SERMON

"JOY TO THE WORLD"

GERHARD FREY-REININGHAUS

### \* HYMN #266

JOY TO THE WORLD

"RICHMOND"

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### PRESENTATION OF SANCTUARY UPGRADES

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

*(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange or blue prayer request cards in the offering plate.)*

CHRISTOPHER MOONEY, BARITONE; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel!

This day let it be known that Thou art God; and I am Thy servant!  
O show to all this people that I have done these things according to Thy word!  
O hear me, Lord, and answer me;  
and show this people that Thou art Lord God;  
and let their hearts again be turned to Thee. (I Kings 18:36-37)

\* DOXOLOGY #716

GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING (Verse 1.)

“BEACH SPRING”

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door:  
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER- Ecumenical Version

*(You are welcome to pray the Lord’s Prayer with the version most familiar to you.)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

\* HYMN #298

LORD, YOU GIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION

“ABBOT’S LEIGH”

\* BENEDICTION

\* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1)

“DENNIS”

*At FPC there is a tradition of joining hands while singing “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” to close our service.*

*You are welcome to do whatever feels comfortable during this time. There is no wrong way to participate in worship!*

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.**  
**The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

POSTLUDE

I COME WITH JOY  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

“DOVE OF PEACE”

\* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.  
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

## This Morning’s Worship Leaders

Guest Speaker.....Gerhard Frey-Reininghaus  
Liturgist.....Rev. Alison Peters  
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown  
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; Christopher Mooney, Baritone  
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers.....Otto Ross and David Stickler  
Nursery.....Kathy Dowell and Carol Morgan

**Today we welcome Gerhard Frey-Reininghaus.** Gerhard (born 1951 in Southern Germany) is a retired pastor of the ECCB. From 1996 until 2017 he has been the Secretary for Ecumenical and International Relations of the ECCB. From the beginning of his service in the ECCB he has been responsible for the relations between the ECCB and the PC (USA). For almost 10 years until now he has been the chair of the Partnership Working Group of the ECCB.

PENTECOST is May 24<sup>th</sup>. In preparation, we will be learning “Peace be with you” in a number of languages.

**American Sign Language**

**Greek-** εἰρήνη μαζί σου (I-ray-knee mah-zee soo)

**Persian-** سلام علیکم (Sah-lahm Ah-lay-koom)

**Latin-** Pax tecum (pax TAY coom)

Pax vobiscum (pax voh BEE scoom)



**WELCOME:** A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud to be a “Big Tent Church” where everyone is welcome to join us in worshiping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life to join us. We welcome you to worship with us.

**WELCOME, VISITORS:** We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at [www.fpc-cumberland.org](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org) and [www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland](https://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland).

**FRIENDSHIP PADS:** Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the “Welcome to First Presbyterian Church” card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

**PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES:** (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

**SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS:** Please use the orange or blue prayer request cards, which are located in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys or concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering. The prayer request cards are also available in the pew racks.



**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:** You are welcome to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "To Families with Young Children" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can

engage them more fully in worship. **Childcare is provided during worship as needed! Please see an usher if you have any questions.**

**THE PRAY-GROUND** is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God’s youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. “Jesus said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it’” (Mark 10:14-15).

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. You may specify live or silk flowers.



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Patricia Kelby, by Judith Brown.

# PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Alison is available when requested or informed of a need. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit or phone call, please call or text her to let her know. *[Fridays are generally her day off and she will respond when she is available.]*

Ways to contact Pastor Alison: 814-715-1681/[revalisonpeters@gmail.com](mailto:revalisonpeters@gmail.com)

To help with scheduling,  
please reach out to the Church Office:  
301-777-3700/ [firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com)

## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	<b>as of April 19, 2026</b>
Total 2026 Pledges Promised	\$271,126.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 70,507.00
<u>2026 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$200,618.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 74,495.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 62,282.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 12,212.00

## ONLINE GIVING



**PRAYERFUL PAINTING:** Join us on Friday, May 1st from 5:00-6:30 PM for an evening of Prayerful Painting at Mr. Toad's Pottery! We will have a creative fellowship opportunity of pottery painting. Each attendee may purchase and paint pottery of their own choosing. An RSVP is required to the church office by Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will join us for a fun evening of fellowship!



**SPRING CLEAN UP DAY:** The Building and Grounds Committee invites you to attend the Spring Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM.

**FELLOWSHIP DINNER OPPORTUNITY:** Years ago, dinners were held at congregation members' homes, as part of a yearly Stewardship campaign. We are looking to bring those dinners back, but as simple fellowship opportunities, to offer our congregation a time of food, prayer and meaningful time together. Host families will determine the number of attendees, provide the entree for the meal, and choose a desired date between May and October. **If you are interested in hosting a fellowship dinner, please get in touch with Kelsey Gallo, at 240-727-7735, or [firstpresbyterianevents@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianevents@gmail.com).**

**THE FAITH FORMATION TEAM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!** We are hoping to offer more faith-forming and faith-affirming activities in 2026 for all ages and we would love to hear your ideas. No suggestion is too big or too small. We have placed a suggestion box in the back of the sanctuary. Please use the box to share your thoughts and ideas with us throughout the year. We are looking forward to planning meaningful and fun events based on your input.

**INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY DONATION BOX:** The Mission Committee has decided that it is time to take a break from requesting donations to the Interfaith Food Pantry Box. On our recent trip to the pantry to drop off donations we found it was well supplied with a variety of food and personal items. The Mission Committee will continue to support the pantry financially throughout the year and will bring the box back at a later date. We thank everyone who has donated throughout the years, and look forward to a continued relationship with the vital local agency.



### MONDAY, APRIL (27)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
5:00 PM WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY

### TUESDAY, APRIL (28)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL (29)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
12:15 PM STAFF MEETING  
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL  
7:00 PM NA MEETING

### THURSDAY, APRIL (30)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
2:00 PM FAITH ACTION MEETING

### FRIDAY, MAY (1)

7:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

### SATURDAY, MAY (2)

### SUNDAY, MAY (3)

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:  
HOLY COMMUNION

A Monumental Revival Returns - CUMBERLAND CHORAL SOCIETY

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 4:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church

This spring, the Cumberland Choral Society proudly brings back one of the most electrifying works ever to grace our stage:

**Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah***—a dramatic, thunderous, and deeply human masterpiece was last performed here in 2016, to great acclaim. Ten years later, this powerful oratorio returns in a revival performance designed to captivate both longtime fans and first-time listeners.

This year's performance features an exceptional lineup of **local** soloists along with **guest artists from New York, eastern Maryland, & Virginia**, thus creating a vibrant blend of regional and national talent.

We are honored to present an edition of this performance long associated with the **legendary** conductor and arranger **Robert Shaw**, which has been condensed to a 90 minute concert and is used with the full permission of the *Robert Shaw Estate*. Although not condensed by Robert Shaw himself but by our **Artistic Director, Judith Brown**, this version preserves the sweeping drama, emotional clarity, and musical brilliance that has made *Elijah* a cornerstone of the choral repertoire.

Mendelssohn's score calls for a baritone to be Prophet Elijah. This role requires an operatic range of emotional expressions which are prayerful, weary and defiant. A full orchestra, three more principal soloists along with a strong and full chorus, complete the work.

Expect soaring choruses, gripping solos and a story of courage and conviction brought to life with renewed energy. This is "Elijah" reimagined for today's audience - intense, inspiring and unforgettable

# — HELP BUILD OUR — **CHURCH'S DIGITAL HOME**

*Join the Website Ministry Team!*

## How Can You Help?

Do you have a passion for creativity, storytelling, or technology?

We need volunteers to enhance and sustain our church website!

### WHY THIS MATTERS:

- ✓ Our website is **the first impression** of our church.
- ✓ It tells the world who we are



### Art & Design

Design graphics and layout for webpages and special activities



### Photography

Take & edit photos for to be uploaded



### Tech & Maintenance

Update & maintain the site



### Content Writing

Write & organize content

**OUR GOAL:** A Sustainable & Team-Driven Website!

Contact Josh Gilhart or email the church office for more information.

*"WHATEVER YOU DO, WORK AT IT WITH ALL YOUR HEART."*

*COLOSSIANS 3:23*